LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) Covering for a surface, comprising a number of successive panels, and fixing means therefor, said fixing means comprising holders including fixing parts, said fixing parts arranged to engage and retain the panels in a disconnectable manner over a part of the thickness of the panels; said panels being mounted in rows, and after they have been mounted on the holders, can be separated from their respective holders and removed without disengaging the panels which are located in the adjacent rows on either side from their respective holders, and

wherein the panels mesh on their edges by means of a tongue and groove joint, either directly or by means of an inserted element, said meshing including locating of a tongue within a groove.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders are each provided with at least two fixing parts made in one piece with the holders, and which are arranged so as to co-operate with two edges or portions of one and the same panel respectively.

4. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders comprise separate elements which are fixable on a base, and wherein each holder cooperates with a respective single panel.

5. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders comprise elements fixable on a base, and wherein each holder includes fixing devices which are arranged to co-operate with several panels situated next to one another.

6. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders each include two fixing parts arranged to co-operate with edges or with panel portions situated near panel edges respectively, of two adjacent panels.

7. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, including a spacer and wherein said holders co-operate with said spacer.

8. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein each holder includes a stopping part with which said holder can be positioned against a panel or holder part of a covering which has already been installed.

9. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 8, wherein the stopping part is formed of a protruding lip which functions as a spacer.

10. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 8, wherein the holder (4) has a configuration, on the side where the stopping part is situated, and on the opposite side thereof, such that when several of said holders are mounted one after the other, the stopping part of the one holder can be freely located against the edge of the panel which is being held by the other holder.

11. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 10, wherein each respective holder is provided with at least one stopping part on one edge, and is provided, opposite each stopping part, with a portion which leaves the edge of a clamped-in panel free.

12. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders include clamping devices which are arranged so as to enable the holders to be

snapped-in on an underlying structure.

13. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the fixing parts are located on opposed sides of the holder; wherein the fixing parts of each holder cooperate with two edges or portions of one and the same panel; and wherein all the fixing parts located on at least one side of each holder include features which facilitate a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, and so that in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering a firm interlocking is enabled.

14. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 13, wherein said fixing parts comprise elastically bendable lips which are shaped by bending each lip backward out of the plane of the holder, and then forward again.

15. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 14, wherein each of the holders is equipped with a combination of one or several fixing parts which are formed of said elastically bendable lips which are shaped by bending each lip backward out of the plane of the holder and then forward again, each said bendable lips further including a hook-shaped part, and of one or more fixing parts which are provided with a relatively rigid hook-shaped part, and wherein at least one of the fixing parts also has an inclined guiding part.

16. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 14 wherein the elastically bendable lips which are bent backward out of the plane of the holder and then forward again, comprise two parts, wherein a second lip part is made such that, in a state of rest when no panel has been provided in it yet, is pressed against a first lip part with a force (F), such that a position of a preferably hook-shaped lower end of the second lip part is always fixed.

17. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 52, wherein the panels overlap each other at their adjacent edges.

18. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 17, wherein the panels include overlapping parts on the opposite edges, whereby, when mounted, a first part of one panel is located behind a second part of an adjacent panel, and wherein a recess or free portion is provided on the second part, such that the one panel can always be freely rotated outward about the first part.

19. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 17, wherein the panels may be meshed together at their adjacent edges, but nevertheless may still be laterally shifted when mounted on said holders, against a spring force exerted by said elastically bendable lips, and wherein the meshing is such that a single panel can be removed from between the adjacent panels by shifting the panel parallel to the covering and by subsequently rotating the panel.

20. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 19, wherein each respective fixing part includes a guiding part arranged so that the panels, when being pressed in for engagement with the fixing parts, are shifted laterally and subsequently shifted back when mounted, whereby said guiding part ensures that the respective meshing parts first pass one another to subsequently mesh one after the other as a result of the shifting back.

21. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders include gripping means which provide a tight grip when said holder is secured on a base.

22. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 21, wherein said gripping means comprises points of support which are located on either side of a fixing point and which are made such that the holder is slightly bent when being secured, so that the holder is tightened against the base on said points of support when secured on the base.

23. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders each include only one fastener fixing point.

24. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders include positioning means.

25. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 24, wherein the positioning means comprises a supporting surface, enabling the holder to be laterally pressed against a base, said supporting surface comprising an L-shaped seating together with the bottom side of the holder.

26. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, or 52 wherein the panels are provided with bevelled edges which facilitate the turning in and out of the panels relative to each other at the tongue and groove joints.

27. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the holders each comprise at least two pairs of fixing parts per panel to be held, said pairs situated on either side of a stopping part located in the middle of the holder.

28. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein each holder comprises only one pair of opposed fixing parts engaging opposed edges or portions of each panel to be held.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the fixing means, as well as said tongue and groove joint, enable the panels to be rotated along the side of the tongue during assembly and disassembly of the panels and holders.

31. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 30, including fixing parts located along the side of a tongue, each of said fixing parts located along the side of a tongue including features which include a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, and so that in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering a firm interlocking is enabled.

32. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the fixing means are arranged to cooperate with two edges or portions of one and the same panel, and the fixing means, as well as said tongue and groove joint, enable the panels to be rotated along the side of the groove during the assembly and disassembly of the panels and holders.

33. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 32, including fixing parts located along the side of the groove, each fixing part located along the side of the groove including features which facilitate a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, and so that in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering a firm interlocking is enabled.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein said inserted elements are connected to one panel such that they always occupy a specific lateral position.

36. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein, the tongue and groove of the tongue and groove joint is formed in the panels, and at least one of the tongue and groove is located outside a respective fixing part when the panels are engaged and retained by the fixing parts.

37. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the panels are provided with parts fitting one after the other, and in that the part which is situated on

one longitudinal edge of the panels, extends up to the vicinity of the fixing part of a following panel to be mounted.

38. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 37, wherein said part extends to underneath and beyond said fixing part.

39. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the panels comprise laths.

40. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the panels include connecting devices on their crosscut sides.

41. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 40, wherein the connecting devices provide for an interlocking, both in a direction which is at right angles to the surface of the covering and in a direction which is parallel to the surface of the covering.

42. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein the panels have a massive core.

43. (Original) Covering according to claim 42, wherein the panels are made from a material selected from the group consisting of wood and a product having a wood base, including MDF or HDF.

44. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein each of the holders include opposed fixing parts arranged to cooperate with one and the same panel, said holder including fixing parts on one side which are formed of a rigid, hook-shaped part.

45. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1 or 52, wherein two or more panels are connected at their crosscut ends by means of an accessory, said accessory comprising a body having bent edges which co-operate with said edges of the panels.

Claims 46-51 (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) Covering for a surface, comprising a number of successive panels, and fixing means therefor, said fixing means comprising holders including fixing parts, said fixing parts including at least one fixing part on one side of the holder arranged to engage and retain the panels at least on one side of the panels in a disconnectable manner over a part of the thickness of the panels and at least one other fixing part located on at least one other side of the holder arranged to facilitate a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, and so that in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering a firm interlocking is enabled;

said other fixing part including an elastically bendable lip which is bent backward out of the plane of the covering and then forward again, said lip comprising two lip parts, wherein a second lip part is made such that, in a state of rest when no panel has been provided in it yet, is pressed against a first lip part with a force (F), such that the

position of a preferably hook-shaped lower end of the second lip part is always fixed.

53. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels are provided with rounded-off edges which facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

54. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels are provided with beveled and rounded-off edges which facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

55. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the fixing parts are provided with beveled edges with facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

56. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the fixing parts are provided with rounded off edges which facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

57. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels and fixing parts are provided with beveled edges which facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

58. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels and fixing parts are provided with rounded off edges which facilitate turning in and out of the panels relative to each other.

59. (Previously Presented) Covering for a surface, comprising a number of successive panels, and fixing means therefore, said fixing means comprising holders including

opposed fixing parts, said fixing parts arranged to engage and retain opposed edges or portions of a single one and the same panel in a disconnectable manner over a part of the thickness of the respective panel;

said panels mounted on said holders in rows wherein the panels, after they have been mounted, can be separated from their respective holders and removed without disengaging the panels which are located in adjacent rows on either side from their respective holders;

wherein all fixing parts located on at least on one side of the holder are arranged to facilitate a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, and so that in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering a firm interlocking is enabled;

flexible bending of a bendable fixing part enabling a panel secured by said fixing part to be released from its respective holder upon movement of said panel in a direction causing flexible bending of said bendable fixing part in a direction enabling separation of a side of said panel opposite a side located at said bendable fixed part from a fixing part retaining said panel in direction perpendicular to a surface of the covering, to thereby release the panel from the firm interlocking with said fixing part.

60. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 59, wherein the holders comprise separate elements which can be individually fixed on a base, wherein each holder cooperates with a respective single one and the same panel.

61. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 59, wherein the holders comprise separate elements fixable on a base, each holder cooperating with a respective single panel, and each holder comprising two fixing parts made in one piece with the respective holder, said fixing parts arranged to cooperate with two edges or portions of one and the same panel respectively.

62. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 59, wherein said fixing parts comprise elastically bendable lips which are shaped by bending each lip backward out of the plane of the holder and then forward again.

63. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 59, wherein said panels and the fixing parts opposite laterally bendable fixing parts of a holder are configured such that when a panel is inserted with one edge behind a laterally bendable fixing part of a holder the panel may be fixed by urging it upward into engagement with the opposite fixing part of the respective holder.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 1, wherein each of said panels, after having been mounted in their respective holders can be separated from their respective holders and removed without interference with the panels which are located in the adjacent rows on either side.

67. (Previously Presented) Covering according to claim 52, including multiple other fixing parts comprising said at least one other fixing part that is located on one other side of the holder, wherein all of said multiple other fixing parts located on one other side of the holder are arranged to facilitate said smooth, lateral, flexible bending.

68. (Currently Amended) Covering for a surface according to claim 1, wherein, ~~comprising a number of successive panels and of fixing means,~~ said fixing means ~~comprising~~ comprise a common base and fixing parts,

said fixing parts formed of plastic and being arranged to engage and retain the

panels in a disconnectable manner,

said fixing parts forming part of separate elements fixable on said common base, each separate element comprising one or more fixing parts,

said common base comprising a profile, said profile acting as a spacer for the separate elements,

said separate elements fixable on said common base by means of coupling parts which are adapted to be connected to the profile by engagement with a cooperating seating arrangement of the profile by movement of the coupling parts in a lateral direction relative to the profile and generally parallel with the principal plane of the panels.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) Covering for a surface according to claim 68, wherein said seating arrangement is arranged to receive said coupling parts by means of a snap-in connection.

Claims 71 - 73 (Canceled)